

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended in conducting the Telephone Interview of November 4, 2004. This Amendment was prepared in accordance with the discussions and agreements of the Interview.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8 and 14 to more particularly claim Applicants' invention. Applicants now claim a plurality of holding devices, each with a different physical structure for holding a functionally different item, where each of the physically different holding devices connect to the multifunctional holder at a same set of attachment points that define the points of attachment between a one of the plurality of holding devices and the multifunctional holder. Thus, Applicants' invention provides the multi-functionality of connecting functionally different holding devices to the multifunctional holder, but yet, provides the efficiency of not requiring different attachment points for connecting the functionally different holding devices to the multifunctional holder.

As agreed in the Interview, Applicants respectfully submit that the Barat reference does not disclose Applicants' invention. Even if Barat could be read to include physically different holding devices, they do not each attach to a multifunctional holder at a same set of attachment points that define the points of attachment between a one of the holding devices and the multifunctional holder. In Barat, as can be seen in FIG. 1, a first holding device 1, as interpreted

by the Examiner, would attach to wall 15 of reserved space 16 by using a different set of ribs and grooves than would a second holding device with a different physical structure.

Additionally, as was also discussed in the Interview, other references cited by the Examiner do not disclose the combination of features of Applicants' invention, e.g., a plurality of physically and functionally different holding devices where each of the different holding devices are detachably connectable to a multifunctional holder at a same set of attachment points.

Further in this Amendment, Applicants have amended several of the dependent claims for matters of form, including claim 4 which was rejected under 35 USC 112. Applicants have also canceled claim 15.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance with claims 1-14 and 16-20 being allowable. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any such fee or any deficiency in fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket 080437.52766US).

Respectfully submitted,

CROWELL & MORING LLP

Dated: 12/14/04

By Robert L. Grabarek, Jr.
Robert L. Grabarek, Jr.
Reg. No. 40,625
Tel.: (949) 263-8400 (Pacific Coast)

Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, D.C. 20044-4300

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8A)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:

MAILING

FACSIMILE

☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service
as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

☐ transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and
Trademark Office.

MM/DD/YYYY

Laura R. Dixon 12/14/04
Date Date

Date